

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-22-2015

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Cleveland
1 - Mr. Young
April 21, 1965

F22M45K35/ADG

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

BY LIAISON

*17 sent CEA Director of Security
4-14-71 by Courti
Morgan*

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

Transmitted herewith is a summary memorandum
containing the results of investigation conducted
concerning Vice Admiral William Francis Raborn, Jr.,
United States Navy, retired, which was requested by
Mrs. Mildred Stegall in a letter dated April 14, 1965.

A limited applicant-type investigation was
conducted concerning Admiral Raborn in 1949, and the
enclosed summary memorandum contains the results of that
investigation as well as the results of current inquiries
concerning him.

b3 26 USC 6103



IRS

*
An individual who may be acquainted with
Admiral Raborn has been unavailable for interview. When
that person has been interviewed, you will be advised.

EX 110 REC 44 161-3819-57
The investigations of Admiral Raborn covered
inquiries as to his character, loyalty, general standing and
ability, but no inquiries were made as to the sources of his
income.

Sincerely yours,

2 ENCLOSURE
Senator George Murphy, California

SEE MEMO CLEVELAND TO GALE, 4/21/65, DHY:jm.

Enclosure DHY:jm (7)

Return to Room 1258

~~SECRET~~

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

RECORDED
JUN 8 1965

ghs

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-22-2015

F22M45K35/ADG

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 21, 1965

SEE REVERSE
SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION
ACTION

SUMMARY

WILLIAM FRANCIS RABORN, JR.

A limited applicant-type investigation was conducted concerning Admiral Raborn in January, 1949, and this summary memorandum contains the results of that investigation as well as the results of current inquiries concerning him.

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Birth

Admiral Raborn has indicated that he was born June 8, 1905, in Decatur, Wise County, Texas.

The records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Wise County, Texas, indicate that an unnamed male child was born on June 8, 1904 in Wise County, and his parents were William F. Raborn and Cornelia Raborn.

TEXAS

Education

Admiral Raborn entered the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in June, 1923. In February, 1924, his resignation was accepted due to deficiencies in studies. He was readmitted to the Academy in September, 1924, and was graduated in June, 1928, receiving a B.S. degree.

Military Service

Admiral Raborn was commissioned an ensign in the United States Navy on June 7, 1928. He served continuously in the United States Navy, advancing through the ranks, until his retirement on August 21, 1963, at which time he was a vice admiral. His service record indicates that his retirement was based on a physical disability described as "arteriosclerotic heart disease with angina, number 4200."

161-3819-57

ENCLOSURE

Return to Young Room 1258

DHY:jm

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

EAU#1348
Classified by SP-8BJ/RAC
Declassify on: OADR
6/9/86

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

Admiral Raborn's service record also indicates that on April 23, 1930, he was hospitalized due to "a tingling raw sensation" in various parts of his body. It was indicated that he exhibited general nervousness, was worried over domestic affairs and was ill at ease and somewhat depressed. It was stated that he was "judged correctly oriented," but had difficulty in thinking and concentrating and, therefore, was considered neurotic and unstable at that time. The records contains a notation dated April 28, 1930, which states, "on account of the marked neurotic nature and peculiarity of his complaints, his emotional instability, depression and general nervousness and lack of any physical basis for his symptoms, the diagnosis is changed to psychoneurosis, neurasthenia." On July 26, 1930, a re-evaluation of his problems was conducted and he was found fit for duty with none of the foregoing symptoms in evidence at that time.

Employment

Since September, 1963, Admiral Raborn has been Vice President (Program Management), Aerojet-General Corporation, Azusa, California.

On April 11, 1965, Admiral Raborn was named by the President of the United States as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Marital Status

Admiral Raborn is married to the former Mildred Terrell and resides with her at 315 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, California.

The records of the Superior Court, San Diego County, San Diego, California, indicate that Leah Vance Raborn, as complainant, filed a suit for divorce against Admiral Raborn, as defendant, on the grounds of extreme cruelty and grievous mental suffering. An interlocutory judgment of divorce was granted the plaintiff on March 25, 1954, and a final judgment of divorce was granted on March 28, 1955. Those records also contain a restraining order issued on August 18, 1954, restraining Leah Vance Raborn from "bothering, interfering with or communicating with" the defendant in any manner whatsoever, and restraining her from conducting herself in any manner calculated to interfere with his occupation as an officer in the United States Navy.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

II. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

Interviews

All interviews set forth hereafter were conducted during the current investigation of Admiral Raborn.

Arleigh A. Burke, Admiral, United States Navy, retired, and former Chief of Naval Operations, was interviewed in Washington, D. C., and advised that he has known Admiral Raborn since before the outbreak of World War II. Admiral Burke related that when he became Chief of Naval Operations in 1955 he began to seek a man to take charge of the development of a surface to surface long-range missile program, which eventually became known as the Polaris Missile Program (PMP). He said that due to the nature of the work involved he had to find an adaptable person who could obtain the cooperation of many people in the military service as well as in private industry. He stated that he sought a man who would be "the driver" and could command the respect of all with whom he would come in contact. Admiral Burke said he spent over a month reviewing the records of every flag officer in the United States Navy as well as the records of many captains and commanders. He stated that after reviewing all of those records he chose Admiral Raborn because of his outstanding service record, his high integrity, his capacity for hard work and because of the fact that he enjoyed a good family life and had an understanding wife who would accept the necessity of long work hours on the part of her husband.

Admiral Burke further advised that when he put Admiral Raborn in charge of the PMP he made it clear to Admiral Raborn that the entire program was his responsibility and it had to be completed within a specified period. He said that at the time the program began its failure was quite possible. He stated that in selecting Admiral Raborn he found that he had made "a hell of a good choice" and the program was highly successful due to Admiral Raborn's efforts. He said Admiral Raborn had actually done more than was expected of him and through his ability and superb management brought the program to a very successful completion prior to the expiration of the specified period.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Admiral Burke stated that Admiral Raborn possesses sound and mature judgment and could "cut across the chain of Naval command" without irritating others. He said that while developing the Polaris missile Admiral Raborn served in the most sensitive position in the United States Navy. He advised that he is also acquainted with Mrs. Raborn and considers her a very reputable person. He said he is aware that Admiral Raborn has been named Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which he feels is an excellent choice, as Admiral Raborn will be "good for the country." He stated he would recommend Admiral Raborn for any position of trust and responsibility without qualification, reservation or hesitation.

David L. McDonald, Admiral, United States Navy, and Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C., advised he has known Admiral Raborn for many years, as they were fellow classmates at the United States Naval Academy. He stated that his association with Admiral Raborn has been social as well as professional. Admiral McDonald said he was one of several individuals who recommended that Admiral Raborn be selected to command the PMP, upon which Admiral Raborn did an outstanding job. He stated he is also acquainted with Mrs. Raborn, who is a former Navy nurse, and knows nothing unfavorable concerning her. He advised that Admiral Raborn's character, reputation, loyalty and associates are above question and he highly recommended him for a position of responsibility.

Paul H. Nitze, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., advised he has known Admiral Raborn since approximately 1955. He said their association has been primarily professional, as their social contact has been limited to official functions. Mr. Nitze stated he has never heard anything of a derogatory nature concerning Admiral Raborn's character, loyalty, associates or reputation. He said Admiral Raborn's ability as an excellent administrator was greatly evidenced by the outstanding job Admiral Raborn did in setting up the successful PMP. He recommended Admiral Raborn for any position of trust and responsibility.

John G. Tower, United States Senator from Texas, was interviewed in Wichita Falls, Texas, and advised he has known Admiral Raborn for a number of years and considers his appointment as Director of the CIA to be "the best appointment the President has ever made." He described Admiral Raborn as "top-notch" in every way and stated that his character, reputation, loyalty and associates are above reproach. He highly recommended him for a position of responsibility.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ralph W. Yarborough, United States Senator from Texas, was interviewed in Washington, D. C., and advised he has known Admiral Raborn since 1957 when Admiral Raborn was working on the PMP. He said that Admiral Raborn is dedicated to the United States and is a highly capable administrator. Senator Yarborough advised that Admiral Raborn handles difficult projects with a minimum of friction and he has never heard anything critical or derogatory concerning him. Senator Yarborough further advised that his association with Admiral Raborn has been primarily professional, but he had had some slight social contact with him in the past through the former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, deceased, who was a close personal friend of Admiral Raborn's. He stated Admiral Raborn's character, reputation and associates are above question and he is a loyal American citizen. He said Admiral Raborn has an outstanding professional record and he recommended him for any high position of responsibility.

William E. Zisch, President, Aerojet-General Corporation, Azusa, California, advised he has known Admiral Raborn both socially and professionally for approximately nine years. He described Admiral Raborn as a very capable administrator who is stable and mature and well regarded by all who know him. He commented favorably concerning Admiral Raborn's character, associates, reputation and loyalty, and he highly recommended him for any position of responsibility.

L. Mendel Rivers, United States Representative from South Carolina, and Chairman, Committee on Armed Forces, House of Representatives, was interviewed in Charleston, South Carolina, and advised he has been closely associated with Admiral Raborn both personally and officially for approximately ten years. He described Admiral Raborn as a great American whose character, loyalty and associates are above reproach. He stated that in his opinion the President of the United States should be congratulated on the wisdom of his choice of Admiral Raborn to be Director of the CIA and the United States of America "will be the beneficiary of it." Representative Rivers advised he is honored to recommend Admiral Raborn for that position.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

Henry M. Jackson, United States Senator from Washington, was interviewed in Seattle, Washington, and advised he has been well acquainted with Admiral Raborn since 1955. He said that he (Senator Jackson) is a member of the Committee on Armed Services of the United States Senate as well as a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and, consequently, had numerous contacts with Admiral Raborn both socially and professionally. Senator Jackson described Admiral Raborn as a man of exceptional judgment and outstanding scientific comprehension who is exceedingly capable as an organizer of large undertakings. He advised he believes Admiral Raborn to be a person of unquestioned loyalty, character and integrity, and stated Admiral Raborn is eminently qualified to be Director of the CIA, which Senator Jackson considers a most sensitive position.

Thomas H. Kuchel, United States Senator from California, was interviewed in Anaheim, California, and advised he has known Admiral Raborn primarily professionally for the past five years, having contacted him on many occasions concerning Naval matters and procurement problems. Senator Kuchel described Admiral Raborn as an outstanding Naval officer who is an exceptionally fine person. He advised he knows nothing unfavorable concerning Admiral Raborn's character, loyalty, reputation and associates and he recommended him for appointment as Director of the CIA.

William A. Schoech, Vice Admiral, United States Navy, retired, Arlington, Virginia, advised he has known Admiral Raborn for many years as they were classmates at the United States Naval Academy. He stated that their association has been very close and they served together on various assignments in the past. He said that Admiral Raborn is a person of impeccable character who is outstanding in every way. He described Admiral Raborn as being "entirely honest," extremely intelligent and well respected by all who know him. He advised that he is acquainted with Admiral Raborn's first wife, Leah Vance Barnes Raborn, and described her as emotionally unstable, which caused their divorce. Admiral Schoech stated it was necessary for her to receive considerable psychiatric treatment due to her emotional problems and they were divorced because of incompatibility. He advised that following the divorce Admiral Raborn took care of their two children until they reached maturity. He further stated that Admiral Raborn is a loyal American who is trustworthy and discreet and he highly recommended him for any position of trust and confidence.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Thomas F. Connolly, Rear Admiral, United States Navy, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C., advised he has been closely associated with Admiral Raborn both socially and professionally since 1943. He said that he is also acquainted with Mrs. Raborn and has visited in their home on numerous occasions. He described Admiral Raborn as a well-balanced, stable individual who is capable and courageous. As an example of Admiral Raborn's coolness in emergencies Admiral Connolly described an incident which occurred during 1955 at which time Admiral Raborn was commanding officer of the U.S.S. "Bennington," an aircraft carrier. He advised that a very large catapult fire broke out aboard ship approximately 300 miles off the eastern coast of the United States and was very serious since the carrier could have been a complete loss. He stated that Admiral Raborn distinguished himself in the cool and courageous manner in which he handled the extremely dangerous situation. He advised that Admiral Raborn's character, reputation, loyalty and associates are above question and that it is "indeed a pleasure" to recommend him for any position of responsibility.

Cyrus R. Vance, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, Washington, D. C., advised he has known Admiral Raborn both socially and professionally since 1957, having worked for him in connection with the PMP. Mr. Vance stated he holds Admiral Raborn in the highest regard, considering him a very capable administrator whose character, reputation, loyalty and associates are above question. He said he would recommend Admiral Raborn without qualification for any position of trust and responsibility.

Forty-one other associates and acquaintances of Admiral Raborn's were interviewed and all described him as a loyal American citizen whose character, reputation and associates are beyond reproach. Those acquainted with the other members of his family advised they are all reputable persons. They said he is very hardworking and energetic and is capable of handling the most complex situations. Several stated he enjoys good health even though he is retired on a physical disability. He was further described as a "good mixer" who is likeable, straightforward and "completely honest." They recommended him for any high position of trust and responsibility.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Close Relatives

Father, William Francis Raborn, Sr., deceased

Mother, Cornelia Moore Raborn, San Antonio, Texas

Son, William Francis Raborn III, Citrus Heights,
California

Daughter



b6
b7C

Brother, Beryl M. Raborn, Houston, Texas

Brother, Charles B. Raborn, New Orleans, Louisiana

Brother, Glenn T. Raborn, Houston, Texas

Brother, Louis B. Raborn, Little Rock, Arkansas

Brother, Rowen C. Raborn, San Antonio, Texas

Sister, Rowena Raborn Miller, Houston, Texas

Sister, Mary Raborn Mylenki, Wyckoff, New Jersey

Credit and Arrest Checks

Information has been received from the appropriate credit reporting and law enforcement agencies indicating their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information regarding Admiral Raborn or his close relatives with the exception of the following:

his no The records of the Central Federal Savings and Loan Association, San Diego, California, indicate that between September 2, 1949, and June 2, 1951, Admiral Raborn was in arrears on five occasions in his monthly payments on property owned by him at 3652 Third Avenue, San Diego, California. On each occasion the account was paid. On August 7, 1951, that association advised Admiral Raborn his account was past due in the amount of \$110 and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

from that time until July 2, 1953, the association and Admiral Raborn had frequent correspondence concerning whether the account was delinquent, as indicated by the association. On July 2, 1953, the loan was paid in full.

Clearances

(U) [X] S-1 [X] Admiral Raborn was granted a "Q" clearance by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) on March 8, 1949, which is presently active. [X] He was granted a top secret clearance by the Department of the Navy on March 7, 1962, and there is no indication that clearance has been terminated.

Passport Record

The records of the Passport Office, Department of State, indicate Admiral Raborn has been granted two passports since December 7, 1960, for travel to numerous countries throughout the world for business and pleasure. Those files contain no derogatory information concerning him.

Miscellaneous

Information Concerning William Lee Gore

On a personnel security questionnaire furnished to the AEC on December 19, 1964, Admiral Raborn listed as a reference William Lee Gore, Senior Vice President (Sales), Aerojet-General Corporation, Azusa, California. The central files of the FBI indicate that William Lee Gore was the subject of an investigation in February, 1964, based on his possible violation of the Fraud Against the Government statutes in that he furnished false information on a personnel security questionnaire furnished to the AEC in January, 1963. He indicated on the questionnaire that he had never been arrested, when in fact he had been arrested on August 18, 1959, by the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., and charged with "soliciting for a lewd and immoral purpose." He had approached a police officer in Lafayette Park in Washington, D. C., and made an indecent proposal. The case against him was subsequently not-prossed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

When first interviewed by representatives of the AEC Mr. Gore claimed that his arrest was the result of a bet he made with a group of friends with whom he had been drinking in a Washington hotel. He was subsequently reinterviewed by representatives of the AEC at his request, at which time he stated there had been no bet involved, but that he had been drinking and had approached the officer. He said he had never before engaged in such activities and could offer no explanation for his actions.

The facts concerning Mr. Gore's possible violation of the Fraud Against the Government statutes were presented to a Federal Grand Jury in Boise, Idaho, on February 25, 1964, and the jury returned a "no true bill."

William Lee Gore, Senior Vice President (Sales), Aerojet-General Corporation, Azusa, California, advised he became acquainted with Admiral Raborn several years ago during the development of the Polaris missile. He stated that since Admiral Raborn has joined the Aerojet-General Corporation he has had limited professional contact with him. He explained that he (Mr. Gore) travels on business trips much of the time and Admiral Raborn has been very busy and has almost no social life. He stated that Admiral Raborn is a diligent and conscientious person who always puts his country ahead of his own personal life. He furnished favorable comments concerning Admiral Raborn's character, reputation, associates and loyalty, and he highly recommended him for a position of trust and responsibility.

Several persons interviewed during the current investigation of Admiral Raborn have advised that his only association with Mr. Gore has been in connection with their duties as executives of the Aerojet-General Corporation.

Agency Checks

Information has been received from the following governmental agencies indicating their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information concerning Admiral Raborn:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William Francis Raborn, Jr.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office of Security, Department of State;
Office of Special Investigations, Department
of the Air Force;
United States Secret Service; Bureau of
Personnel Investigations, Civil Service
Commission; Office of Naval Intelligence;
Atomic Energy Commission; and the House
Committee on Un-American Activities.

b7E

The central files of the FBI, including the files of
the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent
information concerning Admiral Raborn.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~